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Policies to be Followed in Making Adjustments
in the Emergency Farm Labor Program

It is inevitable that progress of the war will make necessary, from time to time, certain adjustments in the farm labor program of the War Food Administration and the State Agricultural Extension Services. As we move definitely toward the post-war period, important changes will occur both in the requirements of farmers for outside labor for agricultural production and in the domestic supply of labor available to meet those requirements. Already there are indications that the supply of migratory workers moving from area to area as the season develops is slightly larger than in recent years. Cut-backs in war production contracts are taking place. Personnel of the Armed Services is being reduced following victory in Europe. Increased quantities of farm machinery are being made available to farmers. There is apparently less demand for high school youth to work in industry during the summer months.

It is difficult to anticipate with accuracy the extent of such changes and how soon they may be felt in farming areas. It is important, however, that the broad policies which should guide the transition be decided upon well in advance of the need for their application. The following policy statements are hereby approved for the guidance of the Office of Labor and the Extension Service in the performance of their respective farm labor functions assigned to them in Administrator's Memorandum No. 27, Revision 1, Amendment 2, dated January 11, 1945.

1. In all cases where local labor and migratory workers, moving at their own or at the employer's expense, are available for agricultural employment, adjustments will be made in the other sources of labor furnished farmers under the farm labor supply appropriation act in the following order.
 - a. Foreign workers
 - b. Prisoners of war
 - c. Interstate workers transported at Government expense.
2. Reductions in numbers of prisoners of war assigned to Service Commands and to States for agricultural work should not be made until after all possibilities of adjustments in numbers of foreign workers have been exhausted. This is made doubly necessary by the limitation on funds available for the importation of foreign workers.
3. Experienced agricultural workers, who during the war emergency period have been transported at Government expense for crop harvest work in other States and who are unable to obtain employment locally, will be given preference over foreign workers. In order to conserve funds and to fully utilize foreign workers who have to be retained for later work, such foreign workers will be used during periods of slack employment before the recruitment of interstate workers in new areas is undertaken.

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4. Such adjustments in numbers of foreign workers and the length of time they are retained in this country as may be found desirable due to changes in the over-all farm labor supply situation will be made as rapidly as practicable in view of international agreements and obligations to workers.

/s/ Meredith C. Wilson
Deputy Director of Extension
Farm Labor Program

/s/ Wilson R. Buie
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Director of Labor

APPROVED:

/s/ Wilson Cowen
Administrator

June 18, 1945

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